

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 031444Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 342

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: REPORTED CAPTURE OF PROF. JOHN (HANNA) MIKHAIL

REF: STATE 268443

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED MIKHAIL CASE WITH NEW ICRC REP IN DAMASCUS DAVID DELAPRAZ. DELAPRAZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MIKHAIL'S WIFE HAD COME TO DAMASCUS FEW WEEKS AGO TO FOLLOW UP LEAD THAT HER HUSBAND IN HANDS OF SYRIAN AUTHROTHIES. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SHE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL SO FAR IN TRACING HIS WHEREABOUTS.

2. DELAPRAZ SAID ICRC HAD APPROACHED SARG ON THIS MATTER BUT WAS TOLD ISSUE WAS WITHIN PURVIEW OF PRES. SARKIS RATHER THAN SARG. ACCORDINGLY, ICRC IN BEIRUT HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION OF PALESTINIANS DETAINED BY SARG WITH SARKIS AND SARKIS HAS PROMISED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH PRES. ASAD. DELAPRAZ CLAIMED SARKIS WILL ALSO TAKE UP LIST OF INDIVIDUAL CASES WITH ASAD, AND SAID MIKHAIL'S NAME ON THIS LIST. DELAPRAZ CONCLUDED THAT ICRC INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP SARKIS' OPENING, BUT IF LEBANESE PRESIDENT UNABLE TO SWAY SARG THERE IS LITTLE OR NOTHING ICRC CAN DO INDEPENDENTLY.

3. FORMER QUAKER SERVICE REP HENRY SELZ, NOW REPRESENTING ANERA IN JERUSALEM, TOLD CHARGE WHEN HE PASSED THROUGH DAMASCUS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THAT HE ALSO HOPED TO MAKE
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INQUIRIES RE MIKHAIL. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT RESULTS HE HAD.

PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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